



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

Public Service Since 1949

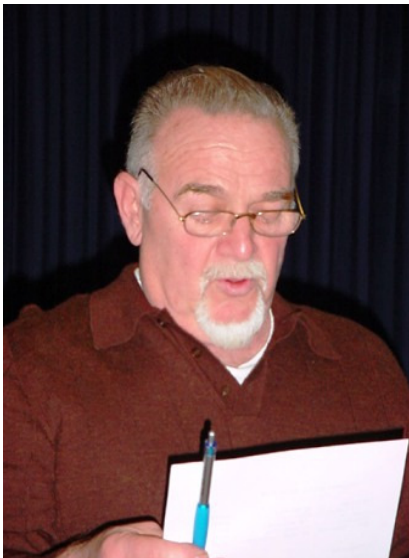
Volume 58 Number 2

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

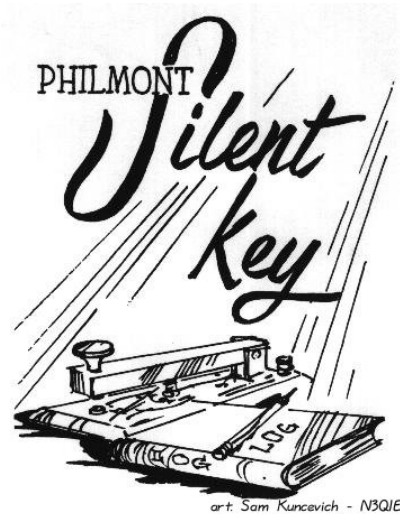
February 2008

PMRC loses an icon

William E. "Dusty" Rhoads Sr.



ND3Q



January 8, 2008



100th VE Session



Dusty is recognized by the ARRL for his years of service as VE

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor.</p> <p><i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis KB3JWK kb3jwk@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH</p> <p><u>Submissions deadline:</u> All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors: N3MT (08) K3XS (08) W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) KB3IV (A) ND3Q (SK)</p>		<p>Contact Phil-mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net</p> <p>For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net</p>			
		<p><i>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Meter/ 70cm Net.....at 0930L on W3QV repeater• 10-on-10 Netat 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)• 75 meter Netat 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB• ARES at 2100L et on the W3QV repeater					
<p>Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory:WB3KOJ</p>		<p>DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor.: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM</p>		<p>Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU</p>		<p>TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT</p>	
<p><i>All visitors are welcome!</i></p> <p>The club meets at 7:30 PM on the <i>second</i> non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Roxborough Memorial Hospital 5800 Ridge Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19128 Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org</p>							
<p><i>License Examinations</i> are held on the fourth non-holiday Thursday each month at Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002 Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.</p>							
		<p><i>Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System</i> Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA Trustee: W3RM 147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS</p>					
<p><i>The Officers</i></p> <p>President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt1999@yahoo.com</p>							

Goodbye Dusty, and 73

We lost a great radio friend in January. I only met Dusty a few times but he sure made an impression on me. He was there when I took both my Tech and General tests and I thought "gee these hams are a happy bunch!"

He is survived by his wife Marie, son William Jr. and Kathleen, a sister and three brothers. He was 64 years old. Nickel-Dime-3-Quarters will be missed by all.

Vacuum tube? Yup, that's what she said!

[O r ... if it don't glow, it ain't radio! -Ed.]

For those vacuum tube aficionados among you, if you can't quite find the right triode for your application, why not make your own? Here's a video (17 min) by Claude Paillard, a French amateur radio operator, who visually shows you how (complete with a jazzy music soundtrack). The video also shows a test of the transfer curves of the finished device, as well as its operation in an actual circuit.

<http://www.eetimes.eu/205801104>

de Maggie, K3XS

From the Secretary...**PMRC BoD Minutes 01-02-08**

Club President Steve, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 20:00 hours local time. Attending were Dick, W3RM; Al, W3STW; Bill, W3AOK; Fred, WA3KIO; Ed, KB3IV and Eric, N3QV. Dick passed out copies of his Treasurer's report and discussed the receipts and expenses.

Worthy of special mention were Dick's efforts in handling the money market account, which has grown four-fold under his watch. Dick commented on ideas being put into action and the necessary funds that will be needed to make the Jim Spencer Memorial Equipment Loan program a reality. The Board commends Dick for his efforts. **The board also commends Maggie, k3xs, for her efforts in publishing the Blurb for the past six years.**

Eric made brief comments about future programs for the mid-month general meetings. The format will feature ARRL films and lectures.

Bill reported on his efforts to upgrade the W3QV repeater power supply system with an uninterruptible power supply that can provide emergency power for up to four hours. Ed is the club's appointed director for 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 21:15 hours.

General Meeting & Auctionfest, 01-09-'08

President Elect Steve Hoch, WU3I, called the meeting to order at 19:50 hours and gave a few words of welcome to all. **Steve gave a few words of recognition to Sol, N3UBY, for his amateur radio service as written in the February '08 issue of QST magazine.** The members got a chance to meet the new *Blurb* editor Rick, KB3JWK. The Auctionfest started about 20:00 hours and continued to 22:00 hours. The event was well attended; there were 45 transactions from about 25 participants.

de Al, W3STW

More from Steve ...

The 2008 12th Annual Phil-Mont Auction had five sellers including Phil-Mont and 44 items were auctioned. KB3IV did a splendid job as Auctioneer. Thanks to W3AOK for the door prizes and the refreshments. Thanks to the Buyers who now have a bunch of new stuff to try out. A great time was had by all after a last minute change of location due to the Red Cross having a blood drive in the Wolcott Auditorium. Many thanks to Alice Popovic for providing us with the church for our meeting and Auction.

Finally, CONGRATULATIONS to **Sol Volen N3UBY** one of the winners of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians contest. Full story in the February *QST* on page 98 in the Strays Column.

de Steve, WU3I

If you depend on over-the-air TV reception with some sort of rabbit ears or other antenna, and plan to be using your present analog TV set for a few more years, sign up for a DTV converter box coupon now.

The important thing to note is that there are a limited number of coupons available. When you sign up at www.dtv2009.gov, you'll get a registration number (make a note of it), but the coupons will not be sent out until the converters are actually available in stores. Then you'll have 90 days to use the coupon.

If you have cable or satellite TV, you don't need a converter. You also won't need one if you plan to replace your TV this year with a new model that has a built-in digital tuner (be careful when buying ... there are still some out there that do not have DTV tuners).

The deadline for analog TV to go dark is a little more than a year away (Feb. 2009). It'll be here before you know it. I'm afraid it's inevitable that there will be a feeding frenzy for converters and digital sets (and for new cable hookups!) when the date approaches, since this whole thing has not received much press. Best to be prepared.

Harrisburg EPA Convention

After several years without an EPA Section Convention, the Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC) has received permission to host an EPA Convention at their annual Hamfest on July 4, 2008. The Convention will be held at the usual site for the HARC Hamfest in Bressler, PA.

To get a full color flyer of the Convention in PDF format please visit www.epa-arrrl.org. The initial page of the EPA web site is hyperlinked to a PDF file containing the flyer with information, a map, and directions.

Make plans to attend! And while you are there be sure and stop by the ARRL table and say hello!

73 de Eric, WB3FPL



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)
03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI
04 Eunice Bohlander (XYL W3VVS)
05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC
09 Maripat Pressler (XYL W3ZXV)
10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU
17 Sam Smith - K3GBA
18 Bill Mannino - WA3NSP
Mim Roeshman (XYL W3LKI)
23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE
Steve Victor – WA2DTW
24 Carmen DeCicco - KE3QB
Larry Pollack - N3VLC

DUES & DIRECTORY UPDATE

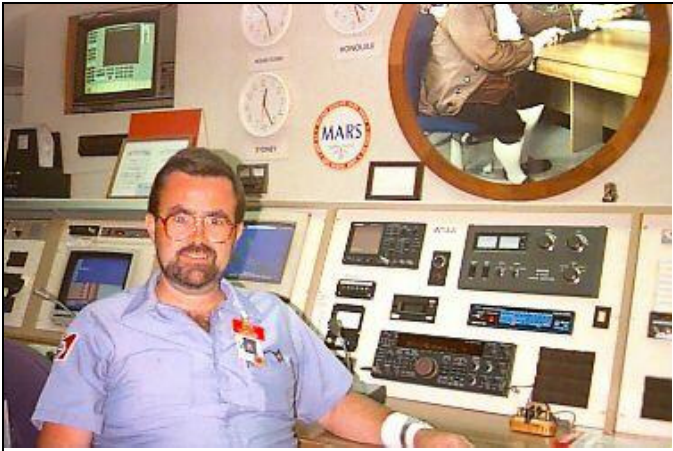
DUES ARE DUE! FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
NOT PAID, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO
UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION.
W3RM AWAITS YOUR MONEY!

New member application de W3RM:

James C. Simon – KB3QEJ (Jim)
57 Eastwood Road
Berwyn, PA 19312
Phone: Home - 610-407-0490
Work - 610-960-2985
License: Technician - Expires 12/21/2017
Occupation: Probation Officer
Email address: JSimon@mail.montcopa.org
Spouse: Robyn

February 2008

The Prez Sez...



de Steve WU3I

Well, winter is finally upon us. We had a nice showing at the Auction and a good time was had by all. This month's topic is one that will someday be faced by us all. We lost some members and former members in the last year, and some had made preparations ... but some had not. Are you the only ham in the family? Does your family know what you want done with "THAT STUFF" you've spent a lifetime gathering? Make it easier for them and the friends they will try to enlist to help them.

Document your equipment. Designate a ham friend to assist your family, and PUT IT IN WRITING!!! Many times I have been called in by families outside of PMRC and they know nothing of the wishes of the ham in the family. I have seen families taken in by fast talkers and left with a larger mess to clean up than what they already had. I suggest doing the following:

- * Inventory your equipment and record this either with a video camera or computer document. Inventory should include all accessories and the location of the equipment.

- * Assess the value of each piece and note the date of the assessment: some rare equipment actually does increase in value. Include the location of all documentation for the equipment. Designate a ham friend to assist your family and make sure you clear this with him in advance. Let the ham know the information exists and where it can be located.

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Finally, consider a donation to your local ham radio club for a tax deduction. For your family's sake, please do not wait until you need this done: Do it while you are able, and make sure one less task awaits your loved ones.

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VE Exam Statistics

There were two sessions in **December**.

On Saturday the 22nd we had one paper upgrade to General and two new amateur Technicians.

On Thursday the 27th we had one new Technician, one upgrade to General, and one upgrade to Extra.

The **January** 24th Thursday session produced two new Technicians and one upgrade to General.

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*Don't forget to check in to the **Phila. ARES** net on Sunday nights, 21:00 hrs. on the repeater.*

Larry, K3HWE, has done a great job organizing this critical part of the amateur service!

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Shameless plug for animal rescue:

If you want a pet, please consider adoption. There are lots of great ones waiting for a good home. A good place to start is petfinder.com
Our critters thank you!

[It's good to be the editor!]

Quote from my YL, Eileen: "Sometimes I wake up grumpy. Sometimes I let him sleep."

My 2 cents ... KB3JWK

New editor, new format? Nah, I just don't know what I'm doing! Muttered many colorful things I couldn't say on the air too. But I'm learning fast!

Hey, this is your newsletter, so feel free to make suggestions or requests. My phone and email info are on page 2.

It's been said before, but I want to repeat it: K3XS has done a great job editing this newsletter the last six years.

Every month I enjoyed her cover picture and the funny caption and took the rest for granted. Now I have a special perspective on what she's done and hope I can maintain such high standards.

Thank you again, Maggie!

Sunspot news de WM3PEN

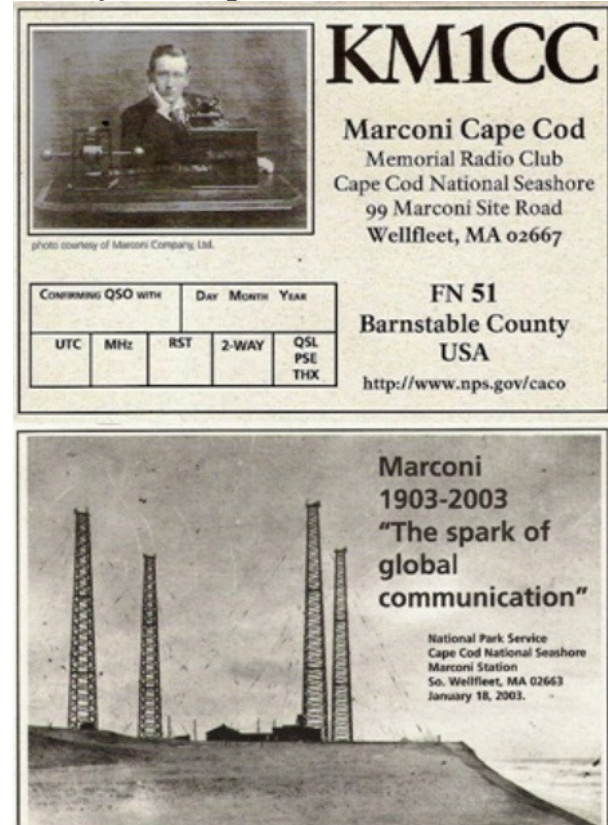
Space Weather News for Jan. 4, 2008
<http://spaceweather.com>

Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar cycle. The wait is over: a magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot emerged today. This marks the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum. Intense solar activity won't begin right away. Solar cycles usually take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max (expected in 2011 or 2012). It's a slow journey, but we're on our way!

Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for pictures of the new sunspot and updates.

Solstice, schmolstice! Winter began for me on Monday morning, January 21st. It was 14 degrees out there! Definitely not antenna-tweaking weather!

W3RED brought these neat souvenirs back from Cape Cod. Thanks Red.



Marconi 1903 - 2003

THE SPARK OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

Inspired by scientific experiments of others, young Guglielmo Marconi began dreaming of a way to send messages from transmitter to receiver without the aid of wires. In 1894 he retreated to a top floor laboratory of his family's Villa Griffone near Bologna, Italy, and at the age of twenty began his experiments in earnest. Marconi used homemade equipment, testing and modifying it, each time stretching to greater limits the distance that signals could be received from a transmitter. First it was 30 feet. Then it was one mile. By 1901, Marconi achieved a range of 200 miles. The age of wireless telegraphy had begun.

SPANNING THE OCEAN

Marconi's goal was to transmit wireless signals across the Atlantic. He built stations at Poldhu, England, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and South Wellfleet, Massachusetts. Huge rings of masts were installed to support the needed antennas. When storms destroyed them, they were replaced by sets of four wooden towers, 200 feet in height. Power requirements were tremendous. A kerosene-burning engine drove a 2200 volt generator. The current was fed to a Tesla transformer which stepped this up to 25000 volts - the energy needed to transmit long-wave signals so far. It was from the Glace Bay station that the first successful two-way transatlantic wireless test message was sent on December 17, 1902.

On January 18, 1903 the first public two-way wireless communication between Europe and America occurred. With elation, communiqués from President Theodore Roosevelt and King Edward VII were translated into international Morse code at the South Wellfleet and English stations, respectively, and were transmitted.

IMPACTING LIVES

Ocean-going vessels quickly adopted this technology. Ship-to-shore transmissions were a major operation. Business and social messages could be sent for fifty cents a word. The South Wellfleet station became the lead North American facility for this function. Transmissions were made between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. when atmospheric conditions were best. The sounds of the crashing spark from the rotor supplied with 30,000 watts of power could be heard four miles downwind from the station.

While the novelty of wireless telegraphy eventually waned, the need for communication at sea continued. Effective communication resulted in numerous sea rescues, culminating in the *Carpentaria's* wireless-aided rescue of over 700 people from the Titanic in 1912.

For fifteen years the South Wellfleet spark-gap transmitter continued in commercial use. Skilled telegraphers sent out messages at the rate of 17 words a minute, and station CC (Cape Cod) served in effect as the first "Voice of America."

THE END OF AN ERA

The demise of the South Wellfleet station was inevitable. The sea cliff was eroding three feet each year, threatening the eastern-most towers. The station was closed in 1917 by the Navy to ensure security and news censorship during World War I. New inventions were making spark-gap transmission obsolete. In 1920, the station was scrapped. The towers were dismantled, useful equipment was salvaged for re-use at a new station in Chatham, and the buildings were abandoned.

A CHANGED WORLD

The early 20th century was an era of new achievements and new horizons. Wireless communication affected the world in many ways. It heightened interest in events beyond the bounds of daily contact and it affected national unity. It raised new possibilities of what could be accomplished and it brought new efficiency to business. Marconi's work created the foundation for developments in radio, radar, microwaves and cellular communication. Upon his death in 1937, all wireless around the world was temporarily silenced in his honor.

A CENTURY LATER

In the early 21st century we look back at a remarkable sequence of events. Most of the former South Wellfleet site is gone now, eroded by the relentless pounding of the Atlantic Ocean. The surrounding area is preserved as part of Cape Cod National Seashore. Though few reminders of the site remain, one can still stand on an Atlantic cliff on a winter day in South Wellfleet, Massachusetts and reflect on the event that sparked the birth of global wireless communication.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

KM1CC will be operating on April 26 for International Marconi Day. For details about this global event visit www.gb4imd.org.uk

Scholarship news from Dick, W3RM

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2008 - 2009 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Eleven are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one (41) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$3000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-USA residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. Clubs, especially those in **California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin** (areas of preferred residence for some of the scholarships), are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

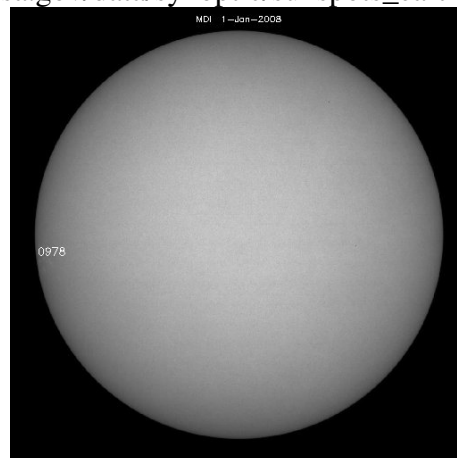
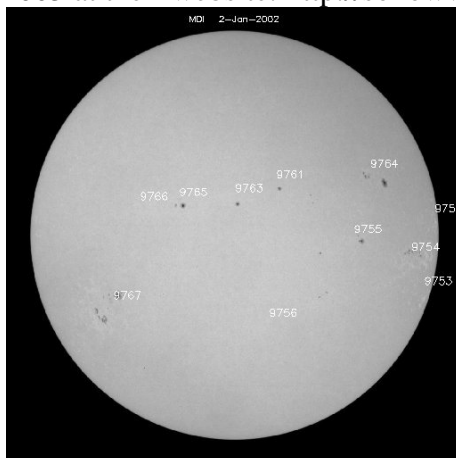
Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to March 30, 2008 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available for download from the foundation's web site
<http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Sunspots in January 2002 and January 2008. NASA has daily pictures of the sun going back to December of 2005 at their website: http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/synoptic/sunspots_earth/



So this is the propagation problem! Ha, I knew it wasn't my vertical!

February PMRC Events

3 Sunday net K3XS NCS
6 Wednesday Board of Directors Meeting
10 Sunday net WB3KOJ NCS
13 Wednesday General Membership Meeting
17 Sunday net KB3IV NCS
24 Sunday net WU3I NCS
28 VE test session
Sunday nights - ARES net at 2100L

I could sure use one of
these...



before I have my first
cup of coffee!

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blurb